



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/987,909
Attorney Docket No.: 011524

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **January 3, 2003**.

Personal Interview:

A personal interview was conducted between Primary Examiner Renee Luebke, Examiner Ann McCamey and the Undersigned attorney on March 26, 2003. The careful attention the Examiners paid to the instant application during the personal interview is noted with appreciation.

During the personal interview, the Undersigned attorney made a presentation of newly amended independent claim 1 in view of the disclosure as shown by way of examples in Figures 1, 2 and 6. A presentation was also made regarding how the newly amended independent claim 1 is differ from the asserted prior art reference Ahroni.

Both Examiners Luebke and McCamey indicated that the newly amended claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the Ahroni. However, further consideration and updated search is needed given that this application is under final status.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ahroni (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,848).

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Independent claim 1, as newly amended, is reproduced hereinbelow:

“1. (Twice Amended) An auxiliary device module, comprising:
an auxiliary device;
a base board provided with said auxiliary device and a plurality of terminals
each with a pair of leading pressure contact blades with a predetermined shape; and
a case in which said base board is mounted;
wherein said terminals on the base board and a connecting portion in said
case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the
case; and
wherein positioning portions having a [terminal receiving groove for the
terminals are provided in the connecting portion of said connector] plurality of
pressure contact receiving grooves each being pre-formed with complimentary shape
as the predetermined shape of each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades so
as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades.”

The claimed invention is shown by way of an example in Figures 1-2 and 6, where there is indeed disclosed an auxiliary device module z comprising an auxiliary device 1; a base board 2 provided with said auxiliary device 1 and a plurality of terminals 5e each with a pair of leading pressure contact blades 5f with a predetermined shape (Fig. 6, 5f); and a case 3 in which said base board 2 is mounted; wherein said terminals 5e on the base board 2 and a connecting portion 5e' in said case 3 are electrically connected as a connector 5 by mounting said base board 2 on the case 3; and

wherein positioning portions 6 having a plurality of pressure contact receiving grooves 6b each being pre-formed with a complimentary shape (Fig. 6, 6b) as the predetermined shape (Fig. 6, 5f) of each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades 5f so as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades 5f.

In the asserted prior art, even though there are terminals 28 each with a pair of blades as shown in Figure 1, there is, however, not any disclosure of a plurality of pressure contact receiving grooves each being pre-formed with a complimentary shape as the shape of the blade so as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades.

It is well settled that:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element *as set forth in the claim* is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc.*, 848 F.2d 1567, 7 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988)."

Should the Office continue to assert that the claimed invention, as amended, is anticipated by the asserted prior art, a citation of where each and every claimed feature, either as column number and line number, or figure number and reference numeral, or a combination thereof, as disclosed in the asserted prior art is respectfully requested.

Should the Office determine that any claimed feature is not disclosed in the asserted prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is thereby not anticipated by the asserted prior art. Allowance of the claimed invention is then respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the asserted prior art. Claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, also patentably distinguish over the asserted prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahroni as applied to claims 1-3 above, in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

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As mentioned hereinabove, independent claim 1, as newly amended, patentably distinguishes over Ahroni. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, also patentably distinguish over Ahroni further in view of any other reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.



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Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 1 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


Michael N. Lau
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,479

MNL/alw

Atty. Docket No. **011524**
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 09/987,909

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An auxiliary device module, comprising:
 - an auxiliary device;
 - a base board provided with said auxiliary device and a plurality of terminals each with a pair of leading pressure contact blades with a predetermined shape; and
 - a case in which said base board is mounted;
- wherein said terminals on the base board and a connecting portion in said case are electrically connected as a connector by mounting said base board on the case; and
- wherein positioning portions having a [terminal receiving groove for the terminals are provided in the connecting portion of said connector] plurality of pressure contact receiving grooves each being pre-formed with complimentary shape as the predetermined shape of each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades so as to accommodate each of the pair of leading pressure contact blades.

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